

Climate change expert visits NHV seminar



PATRICK BESEDA / OREDIGGER

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

"It's going to take collaboration to solve our problems," asserted Brad Udall, director of NOAA-funded Western Water Assessment, located at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Udall presented on Feb. 11 and 12 to Nature and Human Values students about the impact of climate change on water policy in the west. In his lecture, Udall spoke about climate change in general, but focused on how well known water features in the west – such as Lake Powell and Lake Mead – are affected by climate change and how the distribution of water among places that depend on the Colorado River would be changed.

Udall began his lecture by briefly showing how climate change – which he prefers to call "global climate disruption," because "climate change is a change in patterns" – is indeed occurring. His discussion included both common evidence of climate change, such as the warming of the atmosphere, and less common evidence, such as how lags in climate change affect scientists' abilities to successfully predict future climates. As an example, he said, "ocean sinks aren't doing as good of a job absorbing carbon anymore," which is something climate models must take into account if they are to predict the future climate successfully.

Having presented his case on the existence of climate change, Udall began discussing what it would do to the west in general. He cited the example of Phoenix in the summer of 2007, where "in the 90 day summer period... we had 47 days above 109°F." This sort of event is indicative of the future, he

said. "Warming tends to eat up our snow pack," which greatly affects the Colorado River: recent warming, for example, reduced "flows... from 100% of the normal to 70%." In terms of impacts closer to home, he commented, "Colorado's elevation will be somewhat protective of its snow pack."

Udall continued his discussion of the west, focusing more on water policy. "Lake Mead has lost almost half of what it started with... this is by far the worst drought in the historical period." The drought is very worrisome for those living in the West and Southwest, who get their water from the Colorado River. This includes Phoenix, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and San Diego, among others: "30 million people are served by the basin." Furthermore, the water from the Colorado River is legislated to go to certain states, in specific amounts. This makes it so that in a given year, states in the Colorado's upper basin, including Colorado, don't know for sure how much water they will be getting.

The outlook is unnerving for many climate scientists. "Annual mean warming is likely to exceed global mean..." he said. "Continental areas warm 1.5 times the global warming." Thus, when mid-range projections for global temperature by 2100 are 7°F, the warming in the west will very likely be even higher. However, Udall believes that the problem can still be solved. If states work with each other, and large cities such as Las Vegas – whose only logical water source is the Colorado River – are allowed to get the water they need, then the effects of climate change can be mitigated. "Our ability to adapt is going to be a function of our willingness to be flexible."

Physics colloquium sheds light on cellular journey

Jason Fish
Content Manager

The inner workings of the trillions of cells making up the student 'body' have been a mystery for years. At Tuesday's Physics Department colloquium, some of these unknowns were revealed.

Paige Shaklee, a CSM alumnus in Physics (BSc '03), presented the findings of research she is conducting as a graduate student at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. She and a group of scientists are studying the mechanisms by which cells move material around inside.

"We call it the cell's message and receiving service," said Shaklee, with a hint of the Dutch accent she has picked up while at Leiden.

Using powerful microscopes and inserting fluorescent chemicals into the test cells, Shaklee and her group were able to observe intracellular material flowing along lines, to and from the nucleus.

The group divided the system into three mechanisms: Microtubules, Motors, and Membranes. The first function as the 'roads' on which material travels, appearing as spindly polymer strands radiating outward from a source. The second are the movers along these highways, tiny protein 'vehicles'. The third component is characterized by globs of lipids (fatty matter) that provide the material to be transported.

"We can see material moving along these polymers, but what's moving them?" asked Shaklee. "We know these motor proteins exist, but we want to know how they work."

Throughout the talk, video footage (both real and conceptual) illustrated her points. The membranes could be seen in real time, their structures diffusing outward along thin lines, the motors carrying them away across the microtubules.

To understand these dynamics, Shaklee's group grew their own membranes, tubules, and motors. In a controlled environment, they scrutinized the motor behavior.

"We can study this simple modeling system when these things all work together," said Shaklee.

Two kinds of motors were found: processive (P) and nonprocessive (NP). The former carry membrane material along, looking like miniscule bipeds, putting one protein foot in front of the other, marching down the tubule. The latter type does the same, but, after one step, they detach from the tubule and diffuse back into the membrane.

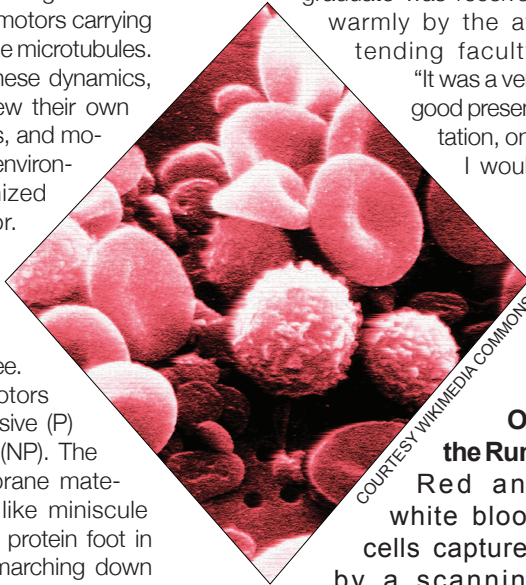
P motors carry membrane material forward, keeping the lengthening string in tension. NP motors, as they fall off, release the tension, and the thread retreats towards the source. Thus far, experiments have shown the P and NP motors to work together in transporting membrane material, explaining the back-and-forth procession as these membrane lines move.

The data gathered has generated some conclusions about cell functioning and the nature of cell development.

"A long time ago, we thought membrane material was all different

throughout the cell," said Shaklee. "Now we think it all might be the same, coming from the same place."

The former Physics undergraduate was received warmly by the attending faculty. "It was a very good presentation, one I would



On the Run:
Red and white blood cells captured by a scanning electron microscope.

expect from a professional in the field," said Dr. John Scales, a professor in Physics. "It's very impressive for a Mines undergraduate student to go off to a top university and Europe and succeed like this."

During the question and answer session following her talk, Shaklee told the audience how she participated in a Biology internship prior to beginning graduate studies to familiarize herself with the concepts and basic knowledge.

"Physics has a lot to offer in the biology and medical communities," said Dr. Scales. "For students who want to get involved, this is a great opportunity."

Companies recruit based on quality

Jean Manning-Clark
Career Center

This year, Colorado School of Mines hosted its largest Spring Career Day yet. With over 175 companies in attendance, the Student Recreation

Center was filled with excited employers and eager candidates. Many of these companies have scheduled additional on-campus interviews and information sessions. A listing of these events and company interview

sessions can be found on DiggerNet.

In addition to the employers participating in the Career Day Event, over 30 companies were on the wait list hoping for a chance to attend, and 4 new employers (Gambro BCT, Northlands Resources, Arista Midstream, and Intellection) came as guest companies looking to expand their relationship with CSM as well as their exposure to the students.

Already the Career Center is receiving inquiries about registering for the Fall 2008 Career Day, scheduled on Tuesday, Sept. 9. The fall event is expected to be another huge event, filling up by June. To keep on top of all the recruiting events, students should log onto DiggerNet.

SEE "DISCUSS" PG 2



COURTESY CAREER CENTER

Inside This Edition

NIU Shooting - Pg 2

World News - Pg 2

Prof. Chuck Stone Wins AAPT Award - Pg 3

Geek of the Week - Pg 4

Tech Break - Pg 4

Blackwell Award Winner - Pg 6

Wrestling - Pg 7

Valentines Recovery - Pg 10

World News in Brief

Abdullah Ahmed, Asst. Business Manager

KOSOVO - After years of struggle with Serbia, Kosovo's parliament declared independence from Serbia this past Sunday. Lawmakers have sent letters to many countries asking them to recognize the Republic of Kosovo as a state, which is considered the newest nation in the world. The new administration has vowed to make Kosovo a "democratic, multiethnic state."

JAPAN - Officials in Japan are planning to build an underwater train that stretches nearly 80 miles to South Korea. The main goal of the project is to "promote" diplomatic relations with South Korea, which has yet to be informed.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: A license plate that bears only the number "1" was sold for a record of 14 million dollars at a charity event. The proceedings will go to help victims of traffic accidents at rehabilitation centers. The latest event has fetched over 24 million dollars from auctioning about 90 plates. The oil-swollen UAE started auctioning unique plates for charity last May.

PAKISTAN - Amid one of the country's worst security crises, voters in Pakistan began hitting the polls. With fears of violence and voting fraud, the election opened to a slow start, especially in major cities. The poll had been delayed since the killing of politician Benazir Bhutto last December.

ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES: A 27-year-old student at NIU opened fire on the campus in the afternoon of Feb. 14. The disturbed gunman entered a filled lecture hall and shot into the crowd. Of the twenty people who were injured, six died, including the gunman. Investigators still don't know the motive of the crime.

Oredigger Staff

Zach Aman
Editor-in-Chief

Hilary Brown
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Sara Post
Copy Editor

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Opinion Editor

Josh Elliott
Business Manager

Cercia Martinez
Prospector Editor

Richard Walker
Webmaster

Cathryn Greene
Asst. Copy Editor

Meave Hamm
Lead Prospector
Photographer

Ryan Browne
Asst. Business Manager

Abdullah Ahmed
Asst. Business Manager

Mike Stone
Fool's Gold Editor

Jason Fish
Content Manager

Kevin Duffy
Content Manager

Lily Giddings
Content Manager

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

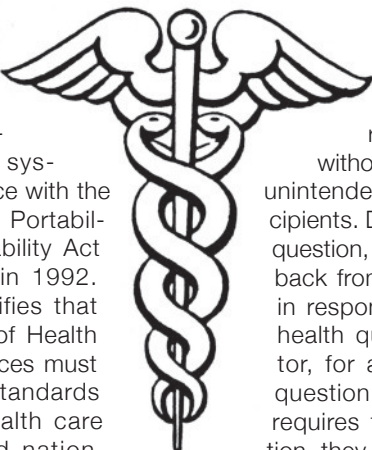
David Frossard
Faculty Advisor

ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

Health Center changes confidential communication procedures

Lily Giddings
Content Manager

The Coulter Health Center at the Colorado School of Mines was "pleased to announce a new secure messaging system" in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) passed in 1992. This act specifies that the Department of Health and Human Services must meet "national standards for electronic health care transactions and national identifiers for providers, health plans, and employers." These standards now



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

require all health care centers to provide secure transmission and privacy protection for clients. For the CSM student health center, it means that students now have an easy way to send in any health-related question, without worrying about unintended third-party recipients. Depending on the question, students will hear back from either a nurse, in response to a general health question, or doctor, for a more complex question. If the question requires further examination, they may be asked to come in to the health center. This system also makes it easier for the health center to

contact students. For instance, lab results can now be sent via email, saving both the student and the health center time. Though the new system is easy to use, Kate van Susante, the Administrative Assistant in the health center, has not noticed a change in the number of student visits to the health center. "But students have already started to use the system," said Susante. In order to use the program, students must subscribe to the web-based system at <https://csm.wordsecure.com>. Students must use their school email address to register. While students may still send in health-related questions via regular email, it is recommended that they use the new secure messaging system. HIPAA info from: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaageninfo/>

This Week at Mines

As of late January, well-known CSM professor Wendy Harrison has officially stepped in as Associate Provost for the institution.

The Rocky Mountain News reported that a barber-shop quartet from CSM "blew the socks off" lawmakers in Colorado's House of Representatives.

CSM was honored in the Westminster Window for a new program that brings graduate students into Westminster's 50 elementary classrooms.

CSM researchers have found a "unique material behavior" that could expand the potential of ceramics: the addition of lithium aluminum silicate halts crack propagation.

One of six American universities honored with the task, CSM will host a seminar with 15 local citizens in late March to discuss the future of nanotechnology.

Shooting at Northern Illinois University

Emily Trudell
Staff Writer

The gunman at Northern Illinois University that wounded 15 and killed six has been identified as former student Stephan P. Kazmierczak. Kazmierczak was armed with three handguns and a shotgun when he opened fire in a lecture hall on Thursday. He arrived ten minutes before the end of the geology lecture, dressed in black and wearing a ski mask to cover his face. The shooting lasted only a few minutes, and authorities were on scene within 90 seconds. The University then proceeded

to send email messages to the entire student body that there had been a shooting, and that students should find a safe place. Friday classes at NIU were cancelled. Kazmierczak was a former sociology student at NIU, and graduated in 2007. People who knew him said that there was no indication that Kazmierczak would do something like this, as Kazmierczak had been well liked by both the faculty and peers while he was a student. Head of Police at NIU, Don Grady did mention that Kazmierczak had recently stopped taking medication. Officials have not

released the name of the drug. NIU president, John Peters praised law enforcement and emergency services for their quick response, and mentioned that the campus had instituted protocol in the event of such an attack. Due to the series of deadly attacks at schools and universities, such as the infamous Columbine massacre, the Virginia Tech shooting, and this most recent incident at NIU, officials at Colorado School of Mines have decided that the dormitory doors will remain locked at all times, indefinitely. Until further notice, only students who have Blastercard access will be able to enter the dormitories.

Foss Building

New Ownership
Same Friendly Faces & Customer Services

PRICES EXPIRE Feb. 16, 2008

Continuing A Legacy

- GREAT PRICES
- HUGE SELECTION
- SUPER SERVICE

WINE

Kendall Jackson 750	
Cab, Merlot, Pinot Noir.....	\$13.99
Chardonnay, Zin, Syrah.....	\$9.99
Sauv Blanc, Riesling.....	\$8.99
Clos DuBois 750	
Cab, Merlot,	\$12.99
Pinot Noir.....	\$16.99
Chardonnay.....	\$8.99
All Others.....	\$9.99
R. Mondavi 750	
Private Selects.....	\$7.99
Ravenswood 750	
All Types.....	\$7.99
Smoking Loon 750	
All Types.....	\$5.99
Yellow Tail 750	
Exc. Reserve.....	\$5.99
Black Opal 750	
All Types.....	\$5.99
Lindemans 750	
All Types.....	\$6.99
Rosemount 750	
Diamond Series.....	\$8.99
Nathanson Creek 1.5	
All Types.....	\$5.99

GREAT FOR ONLY \$5.00 A WINE BOTTLE

Woodbridge 1.5	
Cab, Mer, Chard, Pin Grig.....	\$9.99
Sauv Blanc, White Zin.....	\$7.99
Vendange 1.5	
All Types.....	\$5.99
CK Mondavi 1.5	
All Types.....	\$9.99
Yellow Tail 1.5	
All Types.....	\$9.99
Beringer 1.5	
All Types.....	\$8.99
Glen Ellen 1.5	
All Types.....	\$7.99
Sutter Home 1.5	
Cab, Chard, Merlot, Pinot Grigio...	\$8.99
All Others.....	\$6.99
Corbett Canyon 1.5	
All Types.....	\$5.99
Leaping Horse 1.5	
All Types.....	\$8.99
Franzia 5 Lt.	
Boxed Wines.....	\$9.99-\$12.99

Wine of the Week
Sonoma Creek 750
Pinot Noir..... **\$11.99**

750ml Rodney Strong Chardonnay (Sonoma)
\$9.99

BEER

20 Pk Bottles
Coors Light/ Banquet
\$12.49

Everyday Low Prices		Warm Or Cold – Same Price	
Coors Banquet & Light			
Suitcases.....	\$15.99	Killians	
18-pack 12 Oz Cans.....	\$12.99	12-Pack Bottles.....	\$9.99
Keystone Ice/Light 30-Pack.....	\$12.99	Blue Moon	
Extra Gold.....	\$12.99	12-Pack Bottles.....	\$10.99
Original & Light 20-Pack Bottles.....	\$12.59	Modelo, Especial, Pacifico	
		12-Pack Bottles.....	\$10.99

Check out other in-store beer specials!

Bud Regular, Light		Corona/Corona Light	
24-Pack 12 Oz Cans.....	\$16.99	12-Pack Bottles.....	\$11.99
20-Pack Bottles.....	\$14.99	Breckenridge Avalanche/Sampler/Hefe	
18-Pack Cans.....	\$13.99	12-Pack Bottles.....	\$12.99
Busch Regular, Light		Fat Tire	
30-Pack Cans.....	\$13.99	12-Pack Bottles.....	\$11.99
Pabst		Moose Drool	
30-Pack Cans.....	\$13.99	12-Pack Bottles All Types.....	\$12.99
MGD/Miller Lite		Red Hook ESB/IPA	
18-Pack Cans.....	\$13.99	12-Pack Bottles.....	\$10.99
Molson		Singletrack/Hazed & Infused/Sampler	
12-Pack Bottles.....	\$10.99	12-Pack Bottles.....	\$12.99
		St. Pauli Girl	
		12-Pack Bottles.....	\$9.99

SPIRITS

Jack Daniels		Burnett's Dry Gin	
1.75.....	\$33.99	1.75.....	\$10.99
Jim Beam		Windsor Canadian	
1.75.....	\$21.99	1.75.....	\$11.99 </

MacBook Air: Pure gold for pure gold

TECH BREAK

... with Ian Littman

Well, here it is: the review you've been waiting for, from someone who actually would use the laptop like you would. Yes, folks, here is my review of the illustrious MacBook Air, thanks to a demo kit the Mines bookstore loaned me.

The first things you notice about the Air are its dimensions and weight: it must be an average of a half-inch thick across its body, and a fairly light three pounds. I say half an inch thick as an estimate because it's quite hard to measure the thickness of something that tapers from a small thick spot to edges that are practically thin enough to make sloppy, wrists-to-the-palm-rests typing a rather painful affair, two degrees away from a paper cut on the wrists to be precise.

As to build quality, the Air is incredibly solid for any class of notebook. It looks to be made out of four pieces of aluminum, two for the upper half, two for the lower half. However, if you're used to carrying your notebook computer like a physical notebook, be forewarned: the MacBook Air, as a tenet of its style, has really nothing to hold onto, while my usual ultraportable laptop, the Toshiba R100 (an oldie but a goodie... until the hard drive decided it didn't like me), does. But I'm sure people will just stuff the little beast into their backpack, forget that it's there due to its almost excessively light design, and go along their merry ways.

About the screen: it's brighter than about 99% of laptop displays, yet due to its LED backlit

technology sacrifices only a small amount of battery life in return for the dazzling picture max brightness gives you. The 13.3" screen is, I find, great in terms of being able to see everything you need to see in terms of resolution (it's the same 1280x800 as the regular Macbook) without making you squint. This is a big screen for any ultraportable until you consider that the Air is a little larger in all dimensions but thickness compared with the regular Macbook, and could probably fit a 14.1" widescreen into the display package, though likely at the expense of the webcam and dual microphones that sit atop the screen.

The keyboard is, in a word, great: the keys are slightly more "mushy" than those of the aluminum iMac keyboard, but it is absolutely full-sized, making typing a nice experience. The keyboard is also backlit, which is nice for finding those Apple-specific shortcuts at night or in low light. You also find that there are no insert, delete, page up, page down, or other similar "formatting" keys, which can be annoying but isn't quite a deal-breaker, at least for me.

The touchpad? Awesome. With the surface area of an iPhone (larger than the Macbook's touchpad), the fact that the single button is a little skinny and a little shallow doesn't really matter. It also does tricks, thanks to its hardware controller, the same one as used in the iPhone, tricks like "pinching" to zoom, scrolling with two fingers, right-clicking with two

fingers, rotating with two fingers, and navigating through the web with three.

In terms of battery life, this little laptop will get above five hours if you turn Bluetooth off and don't surf the web too much. You can do e-mail, writing, or even headphone-powered music listening on the laptop and have it last for the advertised time amount. Try doing a few of these things at once, though, and you're probably going to end up with three and a half to four and a half. Watch movies while using Bluetooth headphones and expect even less, though the laptop's battery life is by no means horrible.

Sound quality arising from the Air's single speaker, located somewhere beneath the right hand side of the keyboard, was relatively loud and quite clear, though you aren't getting any bass whatsoever from it. But it is on par with any mainstream laptop's speaker system, as long as that laptop also doesn't have bass response of any kind. Bluetooth audio through my set of BestBuy store brand headphones (Insignias) was static-y when I got too close to the notebook, but good otherwise. Performance-wise, this is an ultraportable laptop to be sure. You'll notice that the fatter flash drives and cable-less USB accessories won't fit in the Air's door-mount lone USB 2.0 port, and some particularly bulky headphone jacks won't jive with the built-in connector, though the situation isn't as stupidly dire as with the iPhone's jack, which

won't accept L-shaped headphone cords at all. The one other port, a MicroDVI affair, will work fine with the cables that come in the Air's box, and power any display short of a thirty-incher, but don't even think about heavy gaming on the laptop's integrated graphics processor.

But back to performance. It handled tasks like web browsing, YouTube, music playing (through iTunes or elsewhere), word processing, and other "digital media consumption" activities very well. iWeb and iPhoto, or even a bit of Audacity shouldn't be too hard on the system, even. But I wouldn't think about using GarageBand on the internal-only mic, or iMovie\ iDVD on a machine that has neither a built-in DVD drive nor a FireWire port. Also, the WiFi, trapped as it is in a full metal jacket, doesn't live up to the performance of other, plastic-based, computers. Not that the computer performs horribly, I just wouldn't use WiFi to transfer lots of data over the connection, expecting it to fly at warp speed. As an added bonus, the Nintendo Wii ethernet adapter works with the Air, though it probably drinks battery power when doing so.

Again, performance of the Air is perfectly fine as a digital media consumption machine, despite the rather slow WiFi. But media creation should be relegated to something else. Office and iWork will certainly work on this machine. Photoshop? Uhhh... no. Not even with the slightly faster processor or the Solid State Drive will the Macbook Air take a place of esteem when it comes to such things, unless you want to compare it to a last-generation, or first-generation,

Intel Mac Mini, in which case the Air wins relatively narrowly. Or a PowerBook, which the Air handily beats.

In conclusion, I feel that people haven't come to appreciate what the Macbook Air is all about. It is the first mainstream, big-buzz release of an ultraportable laptop, something that geeks have known about for years, but the public knows nothing about. In light of these ultraportables, which are mainly aimed at business and cost to match, the Air is a revolution. It certainly doesn't boast the small length and width dimensions that usually inhabit that category of laptops, but it is up to 50% faster versus the competition, is generally a tad thinner, has an external optical drive that doesn't cost a small fortune, and itself costs less than the direct competition for a similar feature set particularly at student price (starting at \$1699). It also features better battery life than other laptops of similar form and function when you're comparing apples to apples on battery size. It is absolutely not intended as a first computer. This is a second or third computer, one that you can take with you virtually anywhere, and watch, listen, write, read, or present with. That's the ultraportable market, and if you're in that market and have the cash, the Air is worth every penny, more so than previous laptops of the same sort. I had wavered in the three or so weeks since the Air was released as to whether I'd buy it. But now I'm back on track: I'm typing this review on an Air I bought Thursday, and it's a great machine, if you have the cash.

Come back here next time for some more interesting stuff!

Geek of the Week

...Jordan Schmick, Sophomore: Electrical Engineering

Melinda Bartel
Staff Writer

[Oredigger] Do you like to collect anything?

[Schmick] I like to watch anime. I have 170 gigabytes on my hard drive. And I have a lot of legos.

What organizations are you a part of on campus?

I'm a part of "Magic: The Gathering" club. It's a trading card game. You collect cards and build decks out of them and play each other. And I'm in FIJI. That takes up a lot of time.

What are your hobbies?

'Stumble.' It's a link you can push on and surf the internet for hours. It pulls up pages you'll like. On mine it brings up astronomy news, web comics, and anything to do with electrical engineering. It sucks my life away, it's pretty amazing. And I like to play Dungeons and Dragons. I'm a dungeon master for DND twice a week. We have two separate games going on in the house and I run both of them.

Do you like living in the FIJI house?

Yeah. It's fun because there's stuff going on all the time. And since everything is networked together, we can have giant LAN parties.

Do you have hobbies other than being on the computer?

I've always liked to start up

projects and things, and then just stop. I have debris from random projects just sitting around everywhere. Last Christmas I tried to build a Christmas tree that spun around with lights. I made all the diagrams and bought all the supplies, and then I just stopped. All that stuff is still lying around.

What is the nerdiest thing you own?

My bronze dice set. It's actually quite awesome. I bought it online. I don't use it, I just have it and I look at it.

When did you know you were a geek?

I was reading Dilbert one day, and I knew that was going to be my life. I was like, 10 or 12.

Why do you want to be an electrical engineer?

I think that petroleum and chemical and stuff are really boring. I've just always known I wanted to be electrical. The concept of power is really cool. It's pretty amazing to me



MELINDA BARTEL / OREDIGGER

Emulating Dilbert: Schmick realized that he was a geek after reading Dilbert at a young age. He also enjoys LAN parties and Dungeons and Dragons.

that we can cause work to happen by sending particles through wire.

What are your goals for after you graduate?

I want to work with power. Like, work for a utility company and figure out better ways to transmit energy and generate electricity.

Mark Barkmeier
Staff Writer

Integrating education with technology can be very beneficial through online education systems. Mines students are familiar with some of these systems, such as Blackboard and our beloved CAPA.

MIT has created a free online system for anyone to use and learn. There are entire courses with lecture notes

available. Some courses also have homework and exams with solutions. There are even videos of demonstrations. They also allow the entire course to be downloaded for offline use, some available in other languages.

The site was launched in 2002 with 50 courses. It now hosts over 1800 with 200 new or updated courses per year. Some of the most popular courses are Physics 1 and 2. Students can use this resource to either help them in their current courses, or to learn something new entirely. If you want to take a course the school doesn't offer, like Vid-

If you want to take a course the school doesn't offer... you can learn it on your own.

eogame Theory and Analysis, you can learn it on your own.

OpenCourseWare is also meant for teachers. Many educators use it to enhance their knowledge of the subject or to help them develop their course.

In 2007 MIT launched a new part of the site called Highlights for High School. This portion of

the site is dedicated to aiding with high school courses. It has resources for Advanced Placement courses. Some of the resources are

specifically designed for the students and some for the teachers. There are also many introductory courses to get a head start in college learning and a portion to help with writing skills. They have resources for technical writing, essay writing, and short stories.

The site generates a lot of traffic. Nearly half of the users are self learners and about one-third the users being students. It now receives over 1 million visits per month. Management courses and subject areas taught at Mines account for sixty-two percent of the site traffic (only one third of the courses are these subjects).

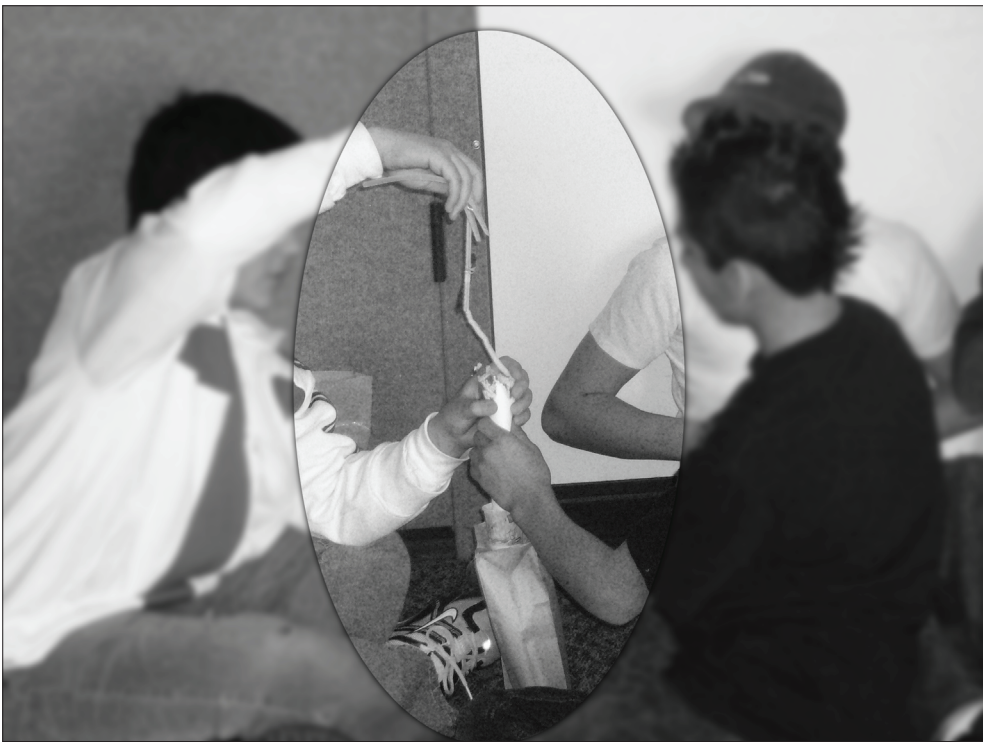
Decade of diversity

Mines hosts 10th Annual Minority Engineering Conference

Jesse El-Aayi
Staff Writer

On Wednesday and Thursday of last week The Colorado School of Mines hosted its 10th Annual Minority Engineering Conference. The seminar is designed to inform and educate 7th through 11th grade minority students about science, technology, and engineering programs at CSM. Bruce Goetz, Director of Admissions, opened the conference with a speech stressing the significance of Mines in today's advancing world. Goetz stated that "Mines is synonymous with quality," and although it may not be an easy ride, it is "well worth the effort." The students were introduced to a board of CSM undergraduates in the Minority Engineering Program and directed to ask any questions they might have. The students questions ranged from, "How much homework do you get a night?" – which generated some laughter from the board – to "Did you always

dream of becoming a chemical engineer when you were a kid?" The students toured the campus despite snowy conditions on Thursday, and had the opportunity to meet with several academic departments. They finished their CSM experience with a group competition to build the tallest freestanding structure from a brown paper bag, 3 paper cups, a cloth pin, 2 pipe cleaners, a straw, a popsicle stick, a rubber band, and one cupcake paper. Even with a twenty minute time limit, this junior EPICS project proved to be a difficult task for many of the groups. 8th grader Thomas Jensen of Goddard Middle School, whose team won the contest, discussed his interest in becoming a mechanical engineer. "I really love cars and understanding how they work," he said. "Plus, this sounds way better than being a mechanic." After being informed of the "ratio," Jensen stated "girls are alright, nothing special. I wouldn't even consider



JESSE EL-AAYI / OREDIGGER

Everyday Engineering: Students had the opportunity to compete in a contest to build the tallest freestanding structure from supplied everyday materials at last week's Minority Engineering Conference.

that when I do apply to college." Andrea Salazar-Morgan, who works in the admissions office, discussed the importance of the Minority Engineering Conference. When asked if diversity was an issue when considering students to accept at

Mines, she replied, "Yes it is very important, although there are no advantages for woman and minorities as far as that factor is concerned." "Everyone going through the application process is looked at based on their academic perfor-

mance foremost," said Salazar-Morgan. "The reason that diversity is important is because of what it brings to the campus, and this conference gives younger minority students the opportunity to see if they want to become a part of it."

Employers discuss why they like Mines students

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

When the companies were asked why they attended the recruiting events at Mines, the response was phenomenal. Listed below are a few of the reasons that recruiters come to Mines for candidates: "Olsson Associates will continually recruit talented students from Colorado School of Mines. Not only are the students top-notch technically, but they are

also well-prepared in important business aspects such as communication, relationship-building, and teamwork." - Olsson Associates "The Colorado School of Mines Career Fair is an event other schools should model for their own students." - Burns & McDonnell "We recruit at Colorado School of Mines because we find the graduates have a great deal more of practical, hands-on education versus the theoretical emphasis found at many universities. This year's event provided some very

qualified candidates. Our experience with these CSM events and the Institution has been very good; their education has been very valuable to our company." - Forerunner "Great Day – It was a lot of fun; exciting to meet so many students interested in us." - Lafarge "The caliber of students is very good, and they are extremely applications-oriented." - IMERYS / World Minerals "We feel that Colorado School of Mines does an excellent job of preparing students for Ca-

reer Day. The students are well rounded within their engineering studies. They are outgoing and have a great ability to communicate." - Stanley Consultants "We have used the CSM recruiting process for the last several years. The staff is knowledgeable, the events and career center services are well organized, and the students are generally well prepared. We have successfully hired students from CSM each year." - ADA-ES "The Career Fair is a great opportunity to meet students and

talk about Shell, work experiences, and answer many of the students' specific, personal questions. Shell has had positive results meeting candidates at past Career Days. We are excited to see the growth in company attendance since it validates the talent of Mines' students in our industry." - Shell "CSM has the best technical students in the region. Our managers are always impressed with the caliber of interns and college hires that we have on staff." - Northrop Grumman Corporation

Green Tip of the Week: Use the bus

Natalie Wagner, Guest Columnist

This is the second semester in the long history of the Colorado School of Mines that students have had a bus pass. Public transportation is highly underused in Denver. New York City has subways, San Francisco has streetcars, Chicago has the "L" (the elevated train), Boston has the "T" (subways and buses) and Denver has the "Fast Tracks" light rail in progress. However, we also have an RTD system. These buses take routes along the Front Range, around the cities and to the surrounding suburbs and transport people where they want to go. Although when written on paper it sounds incredibly convenient, the majority of Coloradoans don't use the bus. Let's change that.

Be responsible:

Next time that you decide to go out drinking, take the bus instead. That way there is no need to rely on a DD or to worry about someone drinking and driving. Don't hold me accountable, but they'll let you be pretty smashed on the bus at night.

Set goals:

If you're into video games more than drinking, make it a goal to use the bus or walk instead of driving once a week. Additionally, they are required by law to give you a ride, even if you forget your wallet and bus pass. Anecdotal evidence also shows that if you happen to be hitchhiking on 6th Avenue at 3 am, the bus will pick you up and take you on a glorious adventure.

Here's what some notable Mines students have to say regarding the bus system:

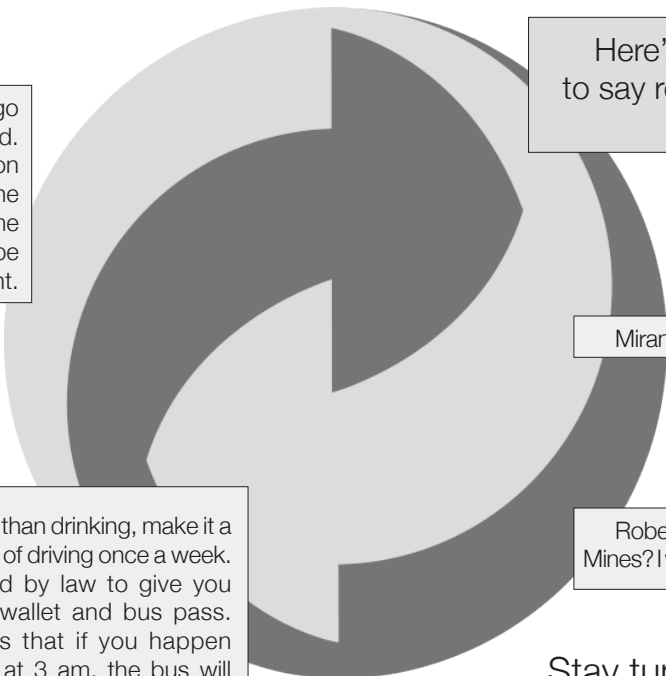
Ben Murphy: "The bus pass is great. I actually sold my car last Spring and only use the bus system. I can go to Denver and visit friends, go to concerts, and head out to the Springs. After a semester in England, I really got used to public transit and the buses here really fit the schedule for classes."

Miranda Morris: "The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round."

Brandy Laudig: "The bus pass pays for itself every semester when I fly back up to upstate New York during the breaks. I use the SkyRide, and it would cost like \$40 bucks without the pass."

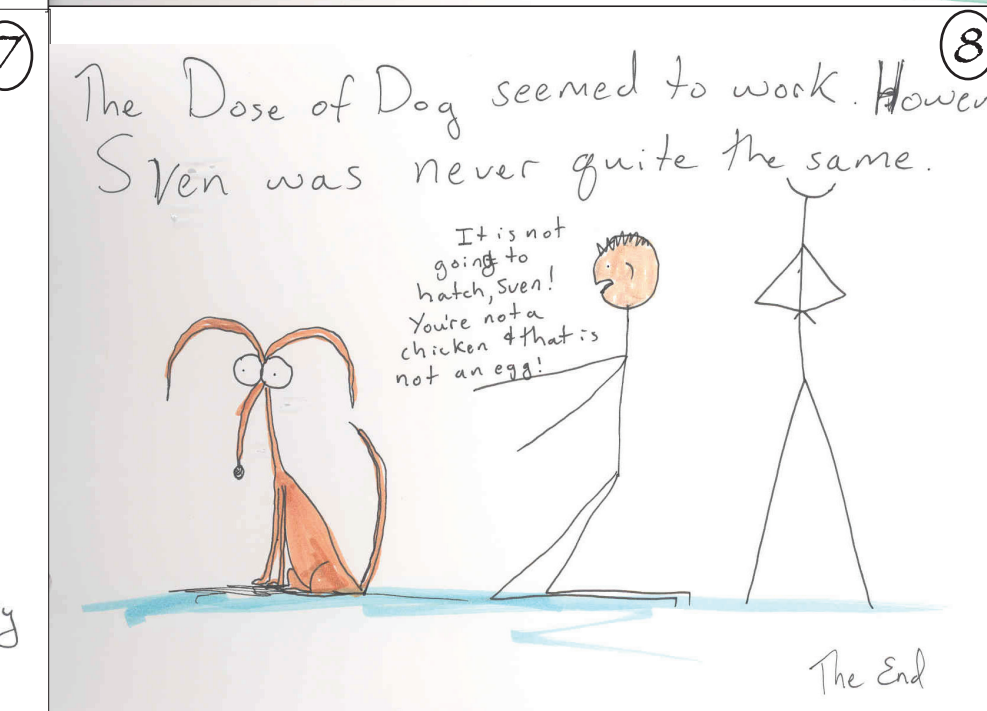
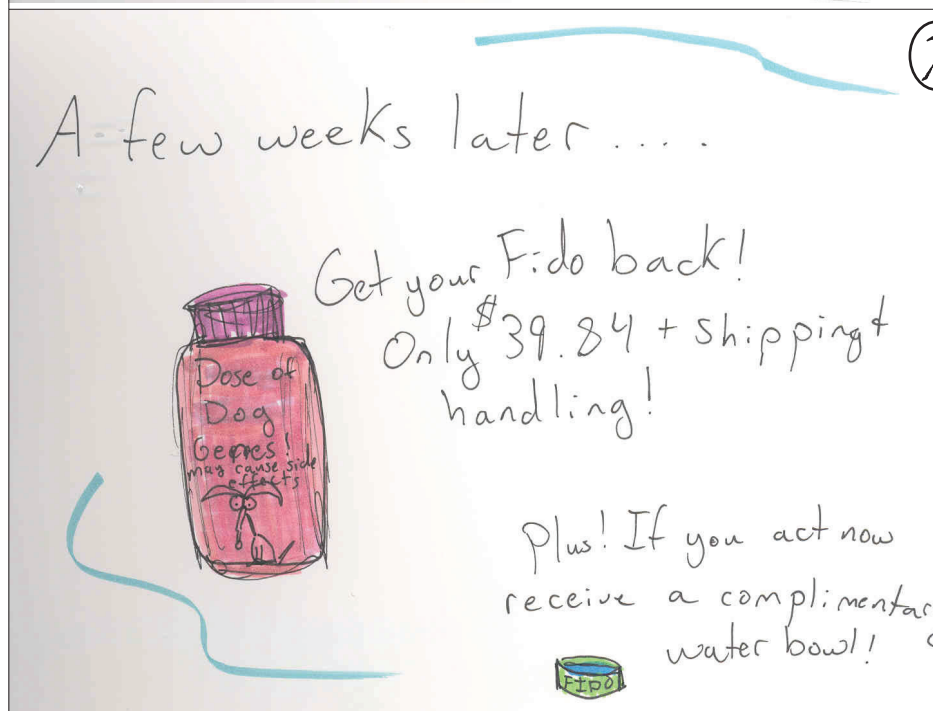
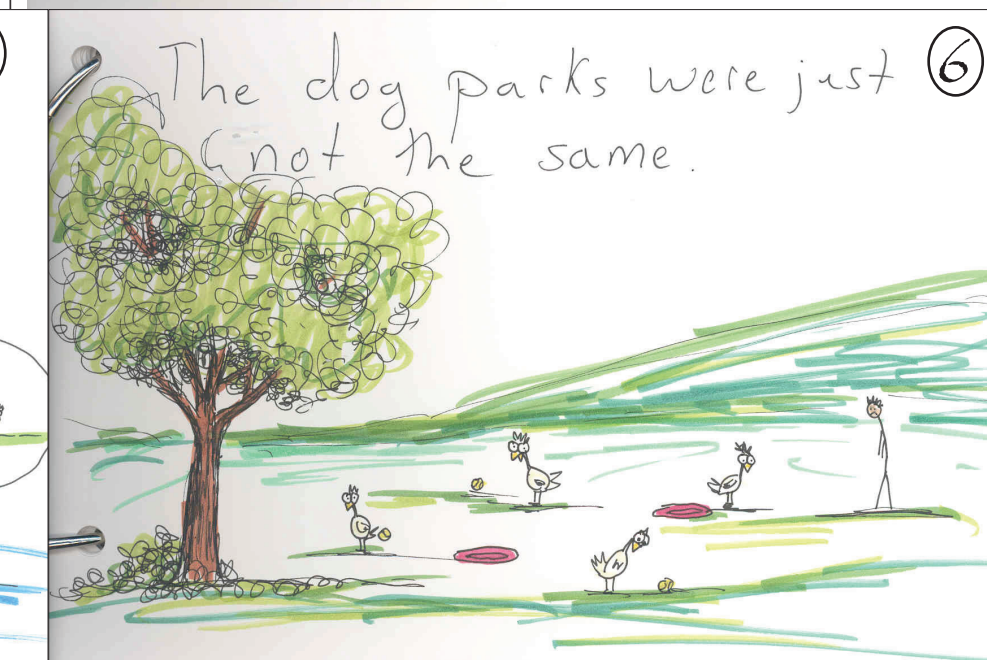
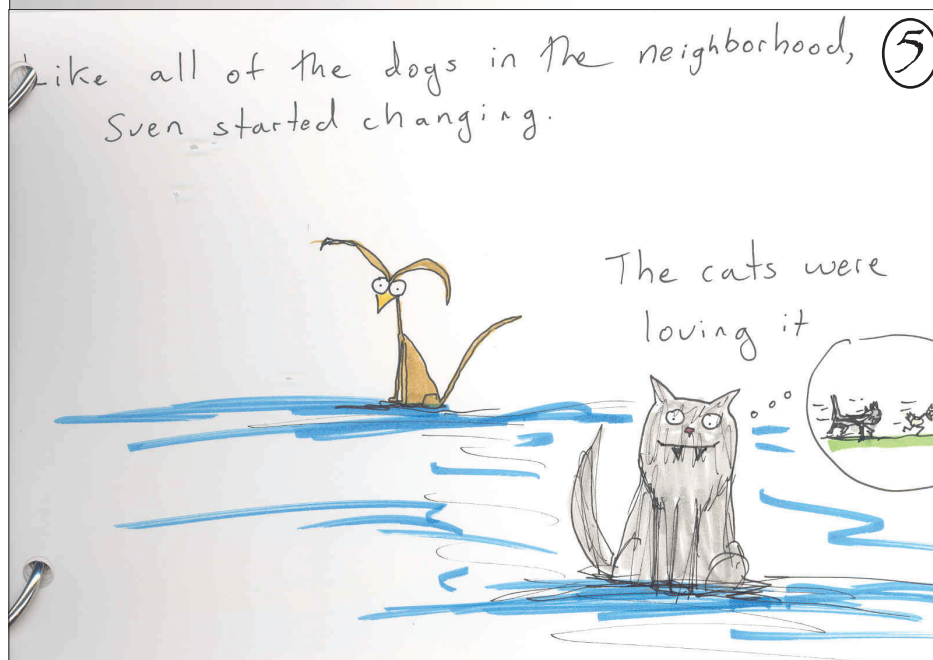
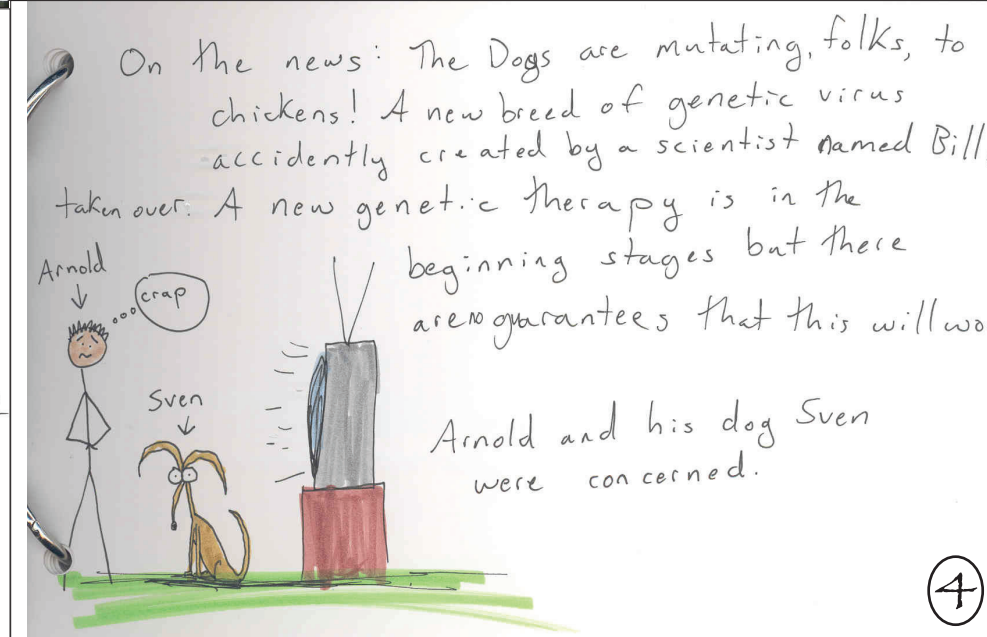
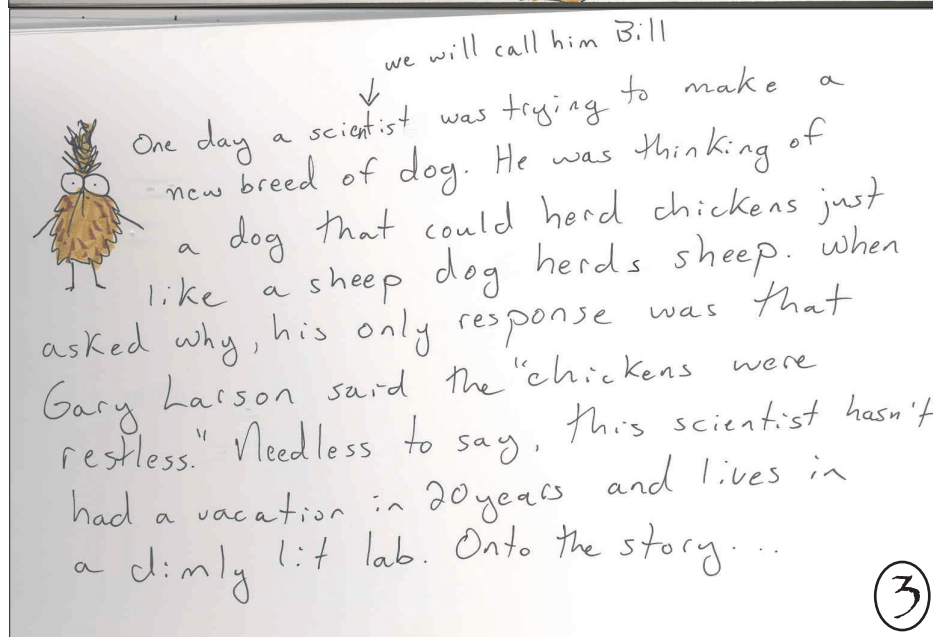
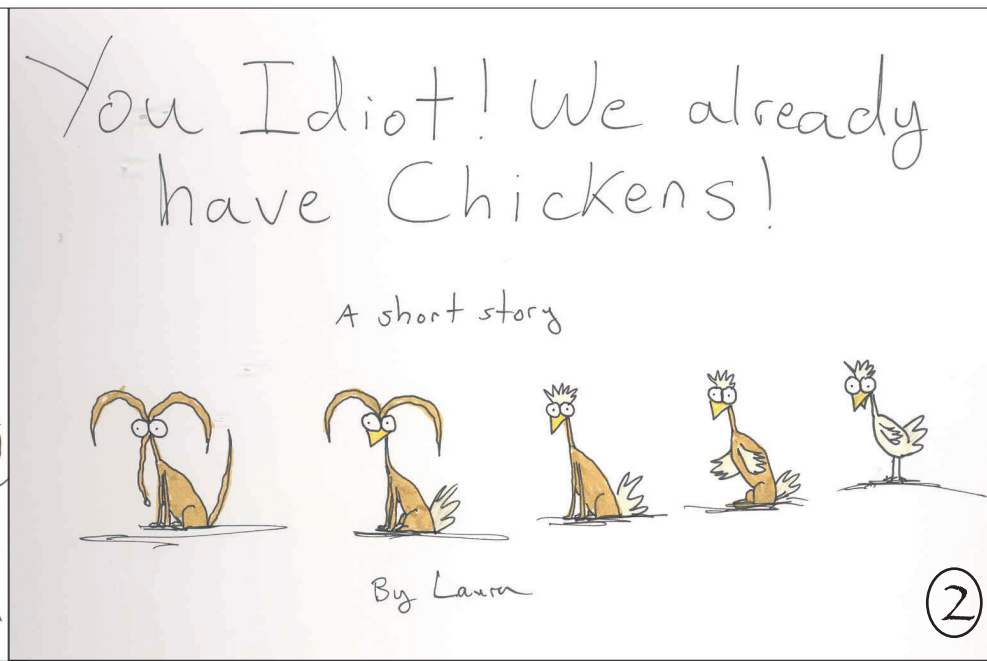
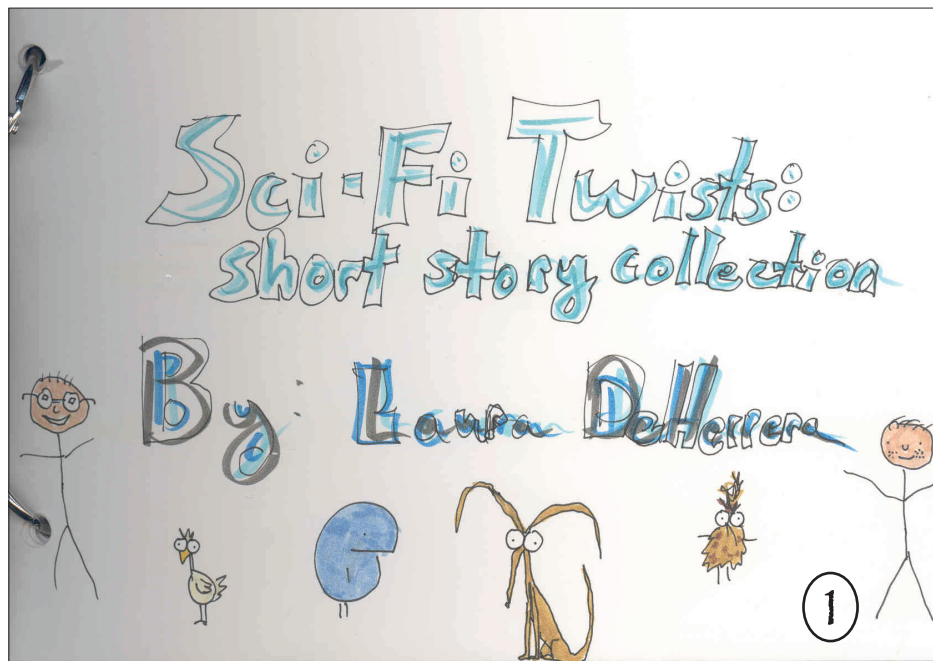
Robert Larson: "Why would I want a commuter bus for just around Mines? I want to be able to get to Denver or Boulder, and out of Golden!"

Stay tuned for more tips next week on how to bring the environment and your dreams a little closer together!



THE BLACKWELL AWARD WINNER

The Blackwell Award for Excellence in Creative Expression is awarded annually by the LAIS Dept. It includes a plaque and cash award. It is awarded to a student who has excelled in expressing the human conditions through different genres of the Liberal Arts.



In the face of a disappointing season, Mines wrestling team remains optimistic

Joel Nelson
Staff Writer

Mines's wrestling team (3-9-0 overall, 2-5-0 RMAC) has had a rough season so far. The conference is NCAA Division II, one of the most intense college leagues in the nation. Even so, Dan Lewis,

Right now the Diggers are a young team, with eight freshmen and sophomores. The jump from high school to college is huge; in college, 18 year olds often get pitted against 23 year olds. Lewis is not as concerned with winning as he is in personal improvement. His favorite part of this season

to being co-captain of the team from the 141 pound weight class.

Though disappointing, the season was not without its high points. On Jan. 12, the team competed in the Hastings College open and had seven grapplers place in the top four. This total included Lousberg, who took first place in his weight

athletes miss fewer classes. The players train intensively Monday through Wednesday, for about 10 hours each week. The sport of wrestling is unique in its emphasis on staying at a specific weight, rather than just "bulking up." Lewis said that it takes a great deal of self-discipline to

he said. He has been awarded the 'Outstanding Faculty Member' award eight out of the twelve past semesters. These awards mean a lot to him, as he sees them as a token of gratitude from the graduating class for his dedication and service to the school. Lewis said that the rigors of the



ALL PHOTOS: PATRICK BESEDA / OREDIGGER

the Orediggers' coach, keeps an optimistic attitude. Lewis is very confident that the team will have a significant chance to win the RMAC championship in the 2009-2010 season when his team is more mature. "It's just baby steps right now," Lewis said in reference to getting to the RMAC championship.

was "to see the improvement from the beginning of the year to where we are now." Two of his top players are Chad Lousburg, who competes in the 125 pound weight bracket and is currently 4th in the nation for pins as a freshman, and Cody Weitzel, a junior who carries a 4.0 GPA in addition

class as well. Kellen Costelow (133 pounds), Zac Cornett (171 pounds), and Brennen Knerr (197 pounds) took third in their respective divisions. Weitzel (141 pounds) and Ryan Sprackling (149 pounds) were both fourth place finishers.

The team usually competes on Fridays and Saturdays so the

stay in the correct weight range.

Lewis left Mines in 1996 and returned in 2001. He said that he very excited to be back because he enjoyed working with young people; he enjoys seeing them excel in both wrestling and life. "I wanted to see this program return to the strong program that it was,"

academic environment demand a lot from the athletes. Lewis has always had a deep respect for all Mines students. He is personally aware of how rigorous Mines is as his son, Dylan, is a wrestler for the Orediggers. His son was a 4th place state champion from Wheat Ridge, Colo.

Swim team ahead of curve for season

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

"This season has been an exciting season for us, as our team has more talent and depth than we have historically had at this point in the season," said Kevin Sage, the assistant swimming coach and diving coach for the CSM swim team. "I believe this is the first season that Coach Hughes [the head coach in his seventh season] has been forced to choose who he puts into his conference meet lineup on the men's side, while leaving a few of our varsity swimmers out of the scoring positions." There is a maximum of 18 roster spots allowed by the NCAA.

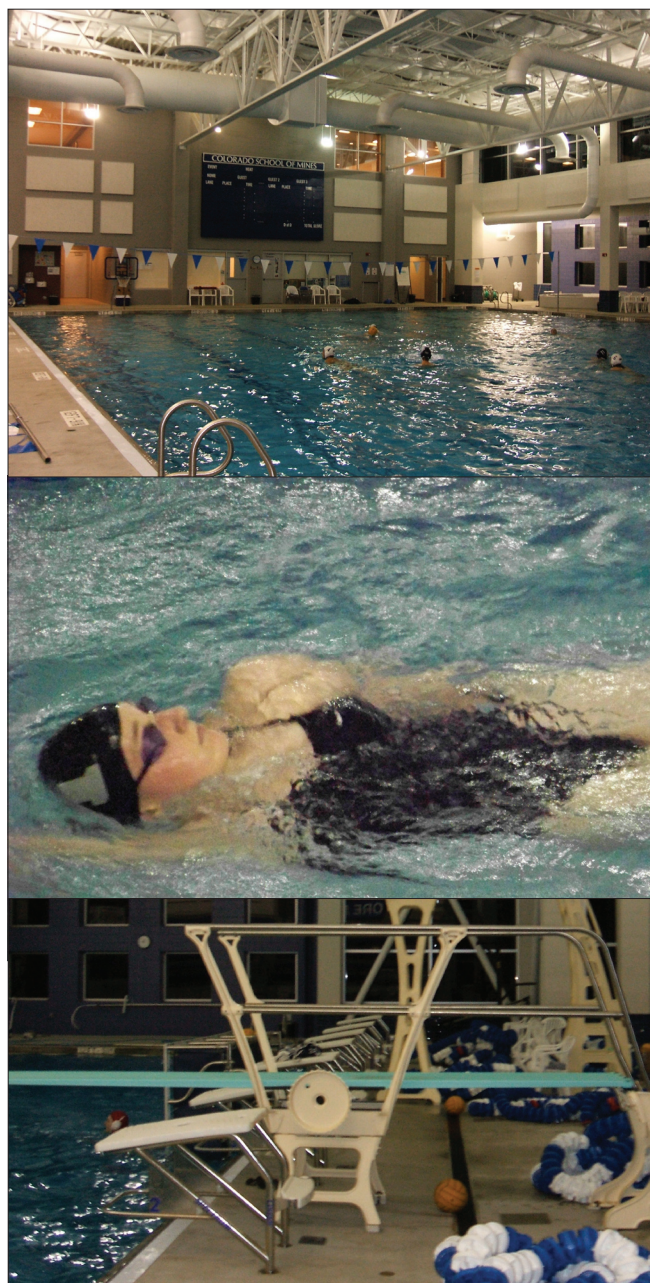
The swim team does appear to be going strong with the regular season almost complete. Going into this past weekend's Rocky Mountain Invitational, the men's side was an even 4-4 while the women's squad was 7-6 in competition. But the standings alone do not tell the whole story. There have been many incredible individual efforts during the 2007-2008 season. "We have had three swimmers break school records: Angel Forsling, Sergey Piletski, and Chandra Lippitt," said Sage. Forsling broke records in the breaststroke, at 50, 100, and 200 meters and Lippitt set her records in the 1 meter with 6 dives and 3 meter in both 6 dives and 11 dives.

The team also had two tournaments this season, the Omaha Invite and the UNLV Winter Invite,

in which "more than 80% of the swimmers achieved at least one lifetime best performance [between the two meets]," according to Coach Sage.

There is no dearth of talent on the team, according to Sage. He gave special mention to Forsling, Lippitt, Renee Rainquet, Becca Walthall, Olivia Bromley, Libby Richards, and Andrea Casias as the women's team's outstanding contributors. The latter two came out of their redshirt seasons to contribute to the squad. On the men's side, Sage wanted to point out Piletski, Kevin Shaw, Fabian Brunetti, Travis Ransom, J. Aaron Miller, and Brian Coates. However, Sage also added, "All of the athletes on the team, even the ones that are not on the scoring roster... they are all outstanding."

Mines hosted the Rocky Mountain Invitational this weekend. The



MIDDLE PHOTO: PATRICK BESEDA / OREDIGGER
TOP AND BOTTOM PHOTOS: MEAVE HAMM / OREDIGGER

team had high expectations going into it. "We expect nothing less than winning the team championship for both the women's and men's side," Sage said of the invitational. "We have the talent, the training, and the taper. We want the team trophy."

After the Invitational, the only thing left for the team is National Championships in Columbia, Missouri from Mar. 12-15. Already qualified for championship competition in diving are Lippitt, in the 1 meter and 3 meter dives, and Chris Moore. "We are hoping that they will be joined by teammate Simon Demby-Myers, who was only 5.5 points away from qualifying in the Metro State meet," said Sage.

On the swimming side, there are many hopefuls for the March tournament. "Shaw has three 'B' cuts, but the 'A' cut is the ticket," said

Coach Sage. "If he hits an 'A' cut, he will be qualified in all three events [the 200 breaststroke and the 200 and 400 individual medleys (IM)]. Also, if he participates in a relay that achieves an 'A' cut, he is qualified in that relay plus the three individual events."

"Within striking distance of an NCAA 'B' cut are Forsling, Rainquet, and Walthall (all in the 100 & 200 breast), Brunetti (100 & 200 back, 200 IM, 100 & 200 free), Piletski (100 & 200 back, 100 & 200 breast, 200 & 400 IM), Brian Coates (100 fly), and Eric Straily (100 & 200 breast)," he further explained.

When asked about how the members of the swim team and diving team were able to handle the rigors of Mines and the swim team, Sage answered; "Sometimes, they can't. Let's face it. This is the Colorado School of Mines. If it were easy, they wouldn't be here. That is where I think coaching becomes more of an art than science... you have to know when to push, when to pull, and when to back off completely. In a few practices, you could see in their eyes that they were reaching their breaking point."

"I also would love to have anything to recognize our four seniors: Chandra Lippitt, Renee Rainquet, Heidi Leathers, and Nate Siedler," concluded Sage. "The four years of training, competition, and most importantly, leadership and guidance for the younger athletes on the team have been invaluable. Thank you so much and we wish you success for the future."

Top Facebook applications

Check out popular add-ons for your profile

Tim Weilert
Staff Writer

Information

During the spring of 2007 the popular social networking website Facebook.com introduced a new feature to their site: applications. These Internet based programs are add-ons for user profiles and can be used for a vast variety of purposes. There are several tens of thousands to choose from, so which applications deserve a place on users's profiles? Here are a few suggestions, based on an on-line survey and first hand testing.

▼ Jet Man

Yet another addicting on-line video game, Jet Man tests reflexes and simulates flying a jet pack through a cave. "What better way to spend countless hours on end than clicking on a little screen like you do in Jet Man?" said Spencer Nelson, a CSM Freshman. Top scores are recorded and can be compared with fellow players.

▼ Last.fm

Finding new music has never been easier and Last.fm is on the cutting edge of music related social networking. The Facebook application is linked to the Last.fm website and uses a media player plugin, called Audioscrobbler, to track a user's listening habits. Seth Daughtry, a Last.fm user and Mines student, said, "I like the application because it allows me to see what my friends are listening to, and it exposes me to new bands and music."

▼ Traveler IQ Challenge

Not only is this game slightly addictive, but it is also a learning tool. Users are given the names of cities, landmarks, and other important geographical points, then asked to place a flag near where they think said locations are. Points are calculated based on the proximity of a player's guess to the actual places. A variety of location sets can be played, and will definitely keep users occupied for hours.

▼ Daily Quotes

There are quote programs for just about every social group. Everything from popular culture to religious texts are covered. Each day a new quote, usually accompanied by a photo, from the specified area of interest is displayed on a user's profile. Some of the best quotes come from established websites such as UrbanDictionary.com or television programs like The Office.

▼ Video

This application was actually developed by the people at Facebook, so it works almost seamlessly with their interface. It allows users to upload videos, tag their friends, and share with other users. The interface is similar to YouTube, but only registered Facebook users can access videos. CSM Senior Ben Weilert appreciates the Video application because "it allows you to upload the videos that you shot of your friends doing funny things while drunk. Then you can tag them on it and allow all their friends to see what they've done."

▼ Weekly Scheduler

For users who are always running out of time, or are constantly missing out on social events, a scheduling application can be useful. Once again, there are a variety of choices, but most allow users to compare their weekly plans with other users. However, there is one drawback to such applications: the information posted is public, and could potentially be used by stalkers, so posting information that is too specific is not recommended.

The Wall



The Oredigger (Mines) wrote
at 3:11am on February 18th, 2008

Facebook applications are here to stay, although many require "inviting friends" to unlock certain useful aspects. Mines Junior Marc Malone realized that there are privacy features within Facebook that can stop unsolicited invitations. "I really like the fact that you can block applications," said Malone. "I've gotten so many "Vampire" and "Zombie" requests from people I haven't talked to in three years, that I just blocked the applications and they can't bug me with it anymore." Most applications are incredibly useful or entertaining, but should be used within moderation, because too many add-ons can cause slow load speeds and Internet browser crashes.

Wall - to - Wall - Write on Oredigger's Wall - Message - Delete

COOKING CORNER

PEACH PIE

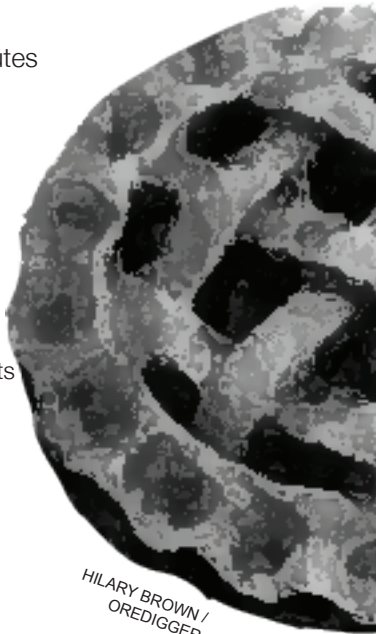
Serves: 4-6
Time: 75 minutes

- 1 package prepared pie dough (such as Pillsbury)
- 1 1-2 lb bag frozen peach slices

Streusel Mixture:
1/4 cup butter, softened (not melted)
1/2 brown sugar
1/2 flour or oats

Preheat the oven to 350 F.
Press the dough into a metal (not glass) pie pan. You can buy pie crusts that are already in pans; make sure you buy frozen, not prebaked.
Pile the peaches in the pie crust. Don't worry if they go over the top - baking will cause them to shrink quite a bit.
Sprinkle the streusel mixture over the peaches.
Bake for 40-60 minutes, until the crust is lightly browned and the peaches and streusel are bubbly.

To make streusel:
In a separate bowl, mix the sugar and flour (or oats). Cut in the butter; this will be easier if you have a pastry cutter. If you don't, just use two table knives. Hold one in each hand, cross them, and slide them apart. This works fairly well, and in a couple of minutes you should have a grainy-textured mixture.



HILARY BROWN / OREDIGGER

- SARA POST

MUSIC REVIEW

Nada Surf gets Lucky

Tim Weilert
Staff Writer

Nada who? Casual music fans may not be familiar with Nada Surf, an alternative rock band from New York City, but they have been the unsung staple of college radio stations for over 10 years. Nada Surf's 1996 semi-hit single "Popular" was the launching block for a new movement of rock music.

Bands like Weezer and R.E.M. gained widespread notoriety and success during this time, while Nada Surf remained in the shadows, working on new material and slowly gaining a larger fan base. Their 2005 album **The Weight Is A Gift**, produced by Chris Walla, continued Nada Surf's breakthrough to the mainstream. With their latest release **Lucky**, Nada Surf shows how far they've come and exhibits the sound they have developed over the last decade.

The record begins with "See Them Bones," a moderately paced song with several layers. First, a simple guitar, bass, and drum ensemble fills the speakers, slowly complemented by strings and vocals (featuring a guest appearance from Death Cab For Cutie's Ben Gibbard.) Next is "Whose Authority," an

upbeat tune that harkens back to the glory days of 90's college radio. "Beautiful Beat" fits its name with both strong drum tracking and great harmonies on the chorus. Nada Surf's now polished sound continues through the middle part of the album. Highlights of the middle include the guitar driven "Weightless," the laid back "Are You Light-n'g?" and the catchy "From Now On." The album ends on "The Film Did Not Go 'Round," a softer, acoustic piece. The lyrics, "Girl I hate to see you go, but the sunlight follows you on down the road," impart a sense of closure as the disc comes to an end.

Although large portions of the album blend together into a seamless conglomeration of 90's-esque college radio pop, there are still pockets of innovation and boldness. Lyrically, Nada Surf has words that are catchy and sometimes thoughtful, although never overly-emotional. Taken all together, **Lucky** is a decent listen and a testament to the roots of modern indie-pop music.



Local band rocks Arthur Lakes

Mine is Clarence plays acoustic

Anant Pradhan
Staff Writer

Two years ago, a rock band by the name of Mine is Clarence formed on the CSM campus. Recently, this somewhat obscure band played a concert in the Arthur Lakes Library for students and faculty.

A pair of the band members played acoustic versions of their own songs as well as covers of more prominent artists. When asked how they came up with the name of their band, lead singer and hydrology graduate student, Jordan Revielle said, "It's actually a lyric from a Beastie Boys song called 'Shake your romp.'"

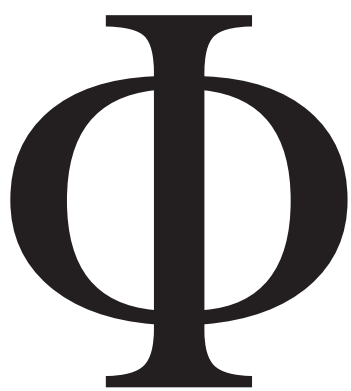
The group plays shows in their free time, while also holding down various jobs and, in the case of Jordan, pursuing a Master's degree. "We actually started when my co-guitarist Matt and I met on a Musician's forum," said Jordan. "We've been writing music ever

since, but didn't actually start playing shows until about a year ago."

Mine is Clarence meshes Death Cab for Cutie with Weezer to create a unique sound, capable of crossing generational barriers. This could be seen from the concert attendance, which varied from college students to professional adults.

"It's refreshing to have live music on the campus and I wish there was more of it," said Junior Drew Meyer. "It was an excellent show with a good vibe that made you want to tap your feet." On March 7th, the **Concert in the Library** series will feature the musical talents of pianist Ashley Young. The concert begins at noon with refreshments available to attendees. **Concert in the Library** occurs biweekly in the Boettcher room and showcases a variety of musical talents from the Mines campus.

To hear a sample of Mine is Clarence, check out the band's webpage at www.myspace.com/mineisclarence.



OPINION

The Oredigger is a designated public forum. Editors have the authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval and may edit submitted pieces for length so long as the original meaning of the piece is unchanged. Opinions contained within the Opinion Section do not necessarily reflect those of Colorado School of Mines or The Oredigger. The Oredigger does not accept submissions without identification and will consider all requests for anonymity in publication on a case-by-case basis. Submissions less than 300 words will receive preference.

oredig@mines.edu

Freedom from choice?

JT Foss
Staff Writer

Controversy is a familiar feeling for democracy. One group of people offends another group of people, and the resultant effect is almost always messy. Global warming, same-sex marriages, stem cell research, amongst a slew of other controversial issues, are all subject to this democratic firestorm of colliding interests.

As horribly obnoxious as it is, do we have enough?

Considering this country was founded on the basis of individual freedom, encompassing the right to free speech and choice, I refrain from labeling controversy as detrimental. However, America would like to differ.

How different would the media be were it not censored, were it more controversial? How would art, music, religious expression, and science differ were our freedom of speech not restricted? How many revolutionary concepts have been discarded to the throes of decadence by those who fear

the reproach of their audience?

The prominent issue of violence in media is a foremost example of arguably misapplied censorship. Conservative coalitions baring the intent to further censor the American media assert that children exposed to violence in media as a child have a higher probability of committing violent crimes later in life.

This insinuates that the desensitization to violence translates to the acceptance of it, which quite possibly is the case. However, I fail to see how this is Hollywood's fault. Hollywood isn't responsible for raising your kid.

Were we to completely censor the media as such factions wish, we would create a positive feedback situation in which bad parenting would become an even more sickeningly reproachable domestic issue.

Yet were those aforementioned conservative coalitions to remain silent concerning violence in media, would American parents still be aware of the potential risk of allowing their children to watch potentially dangerous entertainment? Thus, my point.

Should you encounter a TV pro-

gram that offends you- exercise your freedom of choice and pick one of the two logical solutions. Either ignore it so that the intended audience can appreciate it, or voice your opinion in contradiction of the work.

Just as the author has the right to exercise his or her freedom of speech, you have the right to make your opinion known. The advent of the internet has simplified this process significantly, allowing individuals to disseminate controversial information as well as making it possible for anyone to refute the ideas.

Due to the effects of social psychology, were an insane and dangerous idea presented to the populace but not disputed, it would have a far greater impact. The chaos surrounding controversy may cause a mess, but fuels the ever-grinding gears of democracy.

My suggestion? Move towards a more controversial society in which the public is naturally forced to formulate their own opinions and conscientious enough to know to flip the channel if they don't like what they see.

The big picture

Kevin Allen
Chair, CSM Republicans

The Presidential race can get you down, especially those of us who know that there are only liberals left in the campaign, and that one of them is going to win. Let's examine it for a moment.

John McCain's campaign is falling apart. He still is not winning over conservatives and all of the liberals who like him now will probably go for the Democrat nominee in November. He is simply unelectable. Even if he does become the 44th President of the US, his presidency will not go well. He is a liberal at heart, so all of his policies will pander to the Democrats, and no Republican would dare to go against his own president, thereby clearing the way for things like amnesty and global warming taxes to be enacted. Even to choose McCain as the lesser-of-two-evils is still choosing an evil.

So what is a small govern-

ment, Reagan loving conservative to do? Take the next race into his hands by electing conservative Republicans into Congress! You can sit out the Presidential race if you want, but don't let Congress get away from the American people. In order to save us four years of ramming the country into the ground, we must make sure that nothing gets done. If the Democrats take back the White House, then Congress must have a majority of Republicans to block any agenda that will come from such a socialistic administration. The less that gets done in Washington, the better off America will stay. And the way to do that is to put opposing parties in different branches.

Take the '90s for instance- nothing good or bad happened (in Washington). Clinton was not impeached, and none of his tax hikes got through. We are better off because of it (more or less, let's not get into semantics). SO GO VOTE!

Wealthcare

LB Williams
President, CSM Democrats

What is the fundamental flaw in the US healthcare system? The existence of profit - motive! For-profit implies predatory. US healthcare companies want to make money off of you. They do not want to return your premiums – they do not have your health and well-being as a priority. You may not believe in the benefits of universal healthcare, but SICKO really exposed the dirty laundry of US healthcare.

Our healthcare system should be called Wealthcare. It is a twisted scheme where profits rule, stealing from the middle class and feeding the already rich. Capitalism fails here, where people make big bucks by promoting red-taped coverage and inflating costs because they can, all while pretending to have your best interests in mind. It is a perpetuating abyss of inflating medical costs and declining medical standards. Healthcare should not be a for-profit enterprise!

What is truly sad, though, is how many in America feel that "state-run" healthcare will be a "crappy handout" at the expense of the healthy and rich. Healthcare and peace of mind are basic human needs that Americans should be able to rely upon. We are not a third-world country – let's not act like one. We all have to pull together and work together. Having an elitist attitude that others are freeloading is bullshit. What happened to a helping hand? "God helps those who help themselves."

The "rich" will surely benefit from less poverty and social unrest. Help yourself by helping someone else.

You will have to pay taxes to any government in power. Currently the Republicans are pouring our tax dollars and billions of borrowed dollars into a foreign country, into a war machine. As far as I see, the terrorists won. They took down two buildings and seven years later the world's economy. At least if you pay taxes under a liberal government you can be assured that money is going back into your economy. Liberal tax money rebuilds nations. It has never ruined infrastructure and incited perpetual car bombings in response to the "help."

Right now, we need to invest in we! We don't need foreign oil. We don't need to fight anyone else's fights. We especially don't need politicians who gregariously promote a capitalistic society. I'm sure there is no argument that America is about to hit recession. How did we get out of it in the past? The New Deal and the Johnson reforms, both created by liberal governments who spent your tax money on YOU.

There's nothing wrong with capitalistic ideals, but there is everything wrong with today's realities. Every American will suffer due to economic downturn. Together we fall. And we will stay down if we continue patterns of selfishness and segregation. All I'm saying is we need to care about each other. Why shouldn't we? We are all Americans. We need to invest in we! Who's with me?

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Almost a year ago, the elections for class officers were held. This is a time where students get to vote for fellow classmates to be the leaders of their class, the most important of these positions being the Class President.

Well the class that was at the time sophomores and are now juniors made their votes and the winner came out to be Lauren Zemp. Lauren Zemp was the one chosen by her peers, the junior class, to be the best person to be our leader; to take care of the issues that involve us; to make decisions and fight for things in favor of us.

If she is supposed to be my representative, why is it I haven't heard anything about her since she was elected? What has she been doing this past year? Why does she seem to not be involved in improving the college life for us juniors? Does she even go to this school anymore? Is she really doing the job she's supposed to be doing?

Well, to me, it appears that she took the job of Class President for one reason and one reason only: so that she could put the title on her resume, making her appear to be an outstanding student that is looked highly upon by her peers. I don't know about everyone else, but I really don't appreciate this.

I guess I shouldn't criticize Lauren too much, from what I hear, she's not the only person in office not doing their job. Apparently the Greeks care more

about their fraternity and sorority life than they do about the welfare of their school and fellow students. Who would have guessed, eh?

So I think the reason I wrote this is to tell my fellow junior class as well as every other student at this school—take interest in who you vote for, don't just vote for someone because you've gotten drunk with them once on the weekend. Maybe, think about voting in a student who really cares rather than a Greek.

And Lauren, if you really are doing something as our President, let us know! Send out an email, or write a little article in the paper about what has been going on; some of us would really care to know!

-Jake

Dear Editor,

It seems that recently more and more CSM students are getting excited about recycling. But with all the information flying around about what and where to recycle on campus, it seems that a few facts need to be set straight. First of all, it is true that currently Student Life and the rest of campus are on different recycling systems.

Student Life takes care of the outdoor single-stream recycling bins at Mines Park and the Greek Housing, while Environmental Health and Safety takes care of the rest of campus. However, administrative reorganization will soon combine campus efforts under EH&S to eliminate redundancy and confusion.

Second, it is true that EH&S will handle office paper, newspaper, plastic, aluminum, cardboard, batteries, toner cartridges, and used electronics... but perhaps not the "nuclear reactor" mentioned in the Oredigger recently. Right now, EH&S does not have enough capacity or storage space to collect major electronics from students (think the clunky monitor you just abandoned in favor of a flat screen), but they hope to be able to soon.

EH&S director Linn Have-lick mentions that due to the school's acquisition of the old Ford property, EH&S will hopefully have space to expand within months. That means that, with luck, by the end of the semester students will be able to drop off used or broken electronics to be recycled at a facility attended by a student worker. EH&S is also planning to grow its recycling service by expanding recycling stations around student housing, supplementing the new bins near the fraternities and sororities.

Thanks to the reorganization, tentative new space, attention from the Oredigger, and general interest from the CSM student body, EH&S is working hard to make CSM recycling even better. Keep an eye open for a new website and hopefully a new recycling center by the end of the semester. And remember that you, dedicated recyclers, really make our program great – keep up the good work!

-Andrea Yocom

Check out this week's Gravedigger exclusively on oredigger.net!

Fool's Gold

“A spoonful of sugar helps the vodka go down”

How to recover from a forgotten Valentine's Day

Doctor Love
Love Doctor

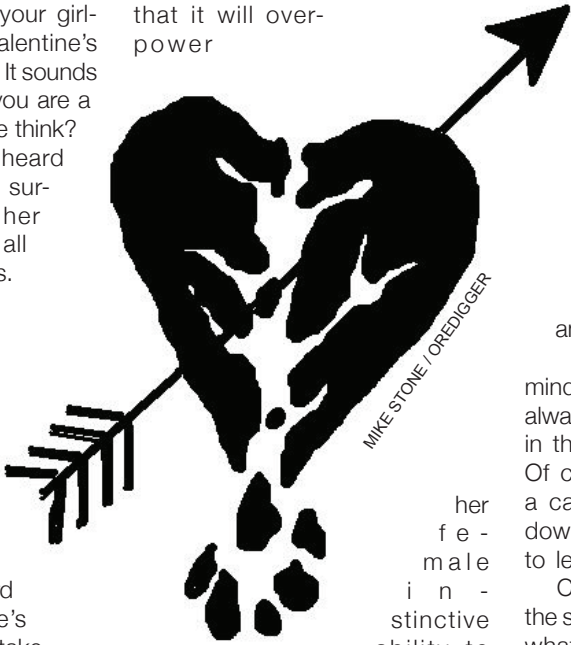
So, you were really busy last week and agreed with your girlfriend to make “your Valentine’s day” for some other time. It sounds alright to you, because you are a guy. Well, what does she think?

Last Thursday, she heard about all sorts of great surprises and gifts that her friends were receiving all day from their boyfriends. And what did she get? *Nothing*. And when her friends asked why? *Because you were too busy*. BIG MISTAKE!

Everyone knows that if you are planning on having “your Valentine’s day” some other time, you have to still surprise her with a card on the actual valentine’s day! That’s a rookie mistake and you can’t make it again!

The biggest breakup day in the world is February 15th. Don’t let that happen to you! Never go that entire day of Febru-

ary 14th without SOMETHING. Now that it is over and done with, you need to recover. You need to pull off something so great that it will over-power



Roses let her know you care enough to buy her something that is averaging \$150 a dozen in February. What she won’t know is that you got them in the clearance bin at Safeway for \$15.

Chocolates are the way to a woman’s heart. That’s a scientific fact discovered by Australian scientists in the 1940’s. What will score you even more points is if you remember her favorite type of chocolate, like dark or white, and get her a whole box of those.

Poetry lets her see into your mind and soul. God knows she’s always desperately looking to get in there to set up booby traps... Of course you could always get a card, but make sure to write down a few lines from the heart to let her know you’re still there.

Champagne is the enzyme for the sexy outfit and everyone knows what happens there. Valentine’s day and birthdays are the only two guaranteed times a year to get it, so get it while the gettin’ is good.

Yours truly,
Doctor Love.



Lost Hearts: Ahhh, the mutilation spreads to the trees.

Valentine's Day calamity

Love runs amok

Cameron Frisby
Stupid Holiday Specialist

Last Thursday, Mines’s innate lack of social skills crashed straight into our nation’s creepiest holiday, Valentine’s Day.

Many people believe that Halloween frightens the most Americans per year, but they are foolish and wrong.

Mines went crazy last week due to a series of unfortunate catastrophes. Initially, the campus was under siege by the product of Lee Key Beaker, a Chemistry PhD candidate. His fifty foot tall, genetically-altered rose monster ravaged the school for four hours.

Flying thorns, falling four hundred pound flower petals, and a constant reminder that you have no one to give a rose to deeply wounded the entire student body both physically and emotionally.

The mutant flower’s reign of destruction came to a crushing end when the rose wandered too close to the freshmen dorms. Its fragile psyche could not withstand the viscous bombardment of social awkwardness that radiates from that part of campus, thus it died and crashed into Thomas Hall.

After recovering from the Godz-

illa-esque attack, a miscommunication between the I-Club and Aramark led to a city wide water shortage as everyone ran to the bathroom as a direct result of free chocolate sundaes.

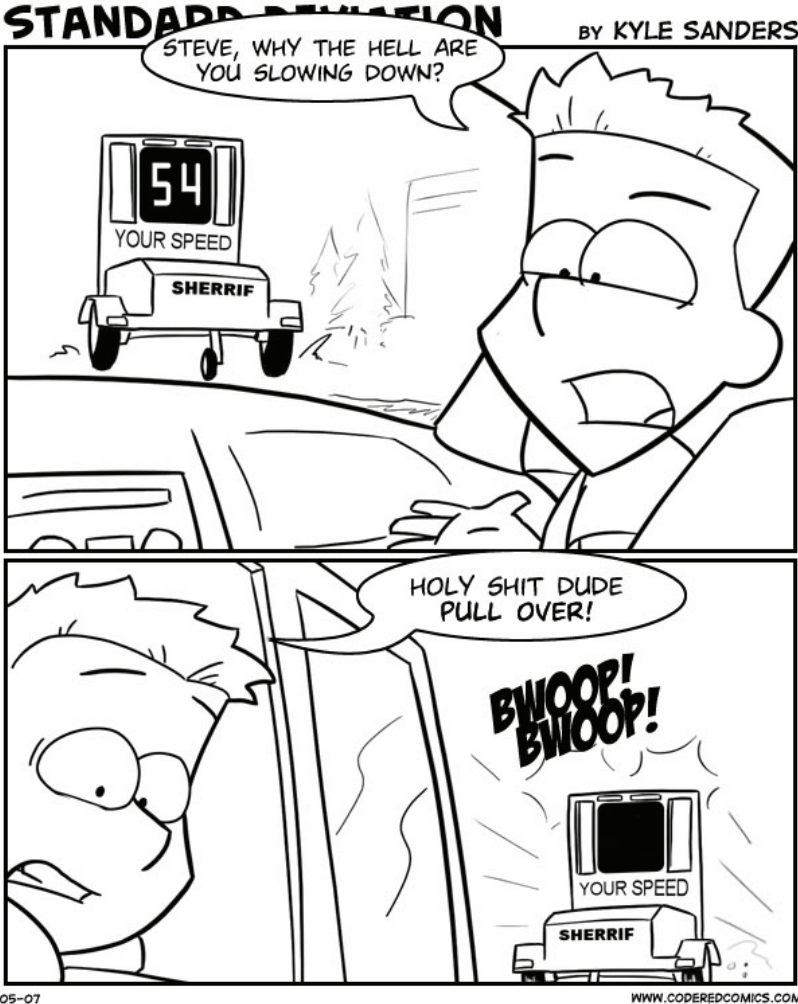
Intensive investigation into the incident revealed that the I-Club had received the chocolate sauce powder that was meant for the local retirement home on Clear Creek.

Unfortunately for us, the chocolate sauce contained a laxative to aid digestion for the elderly.

Then, the scene was fragile, as we had violently ill students with still fresh wounds from a giant rampaging flower: the perfect recipe for crumbling the few relationships that manage to sustain themselves on campus.

A key eye-witness, Peeking John, recounts the bloodbath that ensued: “I was just perched in a tree close to Kafadar, trying to spy on my favorite teacher, when fifty-seven couples suddenly emerged. They fought each other to the death while screaming such profanities as ‘This will teach you to put the toilet seat down!’ The victors of the fight then dragged their deceased significant others into the steam tunnels.”

Fear ruled this Valentine’s Day. We can only hope that we will have the giant flower shears ready for next year....



Stone Cold Sober

Replace the letters to find a secret message! - Indecent Proposal Cryptogram (Hint: F=N)

TYSS XEZ OBMMX OP HPVVYJPM? Y CEV'G FBMP BWEZG GIP IPMAPQ. Y SELP XEZ!

Last Week's Answer: The Oredigger is a front for a child smuggling ring. Don't tell anyone!

Law of gravity disproved

Nation fears reversal of global warming and fall of Hollywood

Matthew Pusard
Gravitationally Challenged Reporter

The sky is falling! The sky is falling! Away from the Earth, that is. Amid a string of ever-so-important congressional hearings on torture, steroids, videotapes on NFL sidelines, and the videotaping of Bill Clinton's intimate exploits, an Irish-American scientist has proven that the law of gravity is a fallacy and our very way of life is in danger.

On Friday, Dr. Seamus "Shyster" McKinley, a prominent US scientist with a Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics from the University of Phoenix, presented Congress with irrefutable proof that gravity was a farce and that, according to the McKinley, "Newton was a drunk!"

Dr. McKinley started his demonstration with an experiment in which a regular scrap of iron levitated off of the ground using only another red, u-shaped piece of iron. Many congressmen remained skeptical after this phenomenon; although, many readily

admitted that they had no explanation for what had just occurred.

McKinley then unveiled an ordinary fish tank full of sulfur hexafluoride gas. He then pulled out a boat made out of aluminum foil and placed it down in the fish tank of SF₆. The boat floated right near the top of the tank as if the laws of gravity did not apply anymore.

David Copperfield then came out as an expert witness and made Senator Larry Craig (R-ID) levitate in mid-air. "It was at that point that we were all, like, totally were freaking out," said junior Senator Patrick Snow (D-HI). In the interest of the nation and/or Republican Party, Copperfield then made Craig disappear like the Statue of Liberty.

In a completely non-knee jerk reaction, just like the Patriot Act, congress almost unanimously passed a bill that would give Dr. McKinley a \$2.7 billion dollar grant to find a prompt replacement for our obviously missing gravity. The funding comes out of the budget for the research of other potentially catastrophic pandemics

like global warming or eugenics.

McKinley promised that his first act with his newly acquired research funds would be to head off to the finest nude beaches in Europe to find 7 new research assistants. "There will be one for every day of the week," he explained. Shyster McKinley will then conduct preliminary research at the Guinness factory in Ireland, because, as he said, "Guinness has been a huge factor in my waking up firmly attached to the floor on many Sunday mornings."

While it might seem that McKinley will just disappear off the face of the Earth, never to be seen again, he explained he will continue his research on a replacement for gravity. Citizens will know his scientific "Synthetic Connection to the Atmosphere Machine" (S.C.A.M.) will have worked if things don't mysteriously float off into space.

Until then, Americans are being advised to tie all of their possessions down to the Earth with rope and to superglue their feet to a slab of cement until the crisis is over.

SUDOKU

8				5				
	4	6	8				7	
	9		4	2				
		5		3				
	2	1				4	8	
				4		5		
				7	3		4	
	5				4	3	6	
				9				1

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Last Week's Solution:

8	5	7	4	6	3	1	2	9
4	2	3	8	1	9	5	7	6
1	6	9	5	7	2	4	3	8
9	4	1	3	2	8	6	5	7
6	8	5	7	4	1	3	9	2
7	3	2	6	9	5	8	1	4
2	1	4	9	5	6	7	8	3
5	7	8	2	3	4	9	6	1
3	9	6	1	8	7	2	4	5

Puzzle by websudoku.com



Acronyms that make you a Mines student

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 10) FBD | 5) ROM |
| 9) BTB | 4) SCAM |
| 8) BLOG | 3) OSL |
| 7) BESA | 2) PFD |
| 6) PETA | 1) QWYA |

Scoring: If you got:
1 to 2 correct, you attend CU.
3 to 4 correct, you need to consider social activity.
5 to 6 correct, you need to get a life.
7 to 8 correct, you need to crawl in a hole and cry.
9 to 10 correct, you read too much Fool's Gold.

-Mike Stone

Fool's Gold Top Ten
731842510

CSM student has awkward experience at IHOP

Free pancakes don't heal all wounds

Tim Weilert
Social Behavior Analyst

This past Tuesday, February 12, at approximately 6:30 pm, a male Mines student, who asked to remain anonymous, named Jimmy and who's CWID is 55577102, had an embarrassing encounter at the "Mile High" IHOP restaurant in Arvada, Colorado.

The Arvada IHOP restaurant had been participating in a "National Pancake Day" promotion as part of a fund raising campaign for "Children's Miracle Network." Free short stacks of pancakes were available to all patrons, and several dozen CSM students partook in the festivities.

The student in question (who lives at 14th and Washington) sat down with friends at about 6:28 p.m., after a brief wait in the front of the restaurant. At 6:29 p.m. a server proceeded to give the student and his friends glasses, each containing two hydrogen atoms for each oxygen atom, which were free of charge.

At 6:30, it happened. From the corner of his eye Jimmy saw a girl who resembled an old acquaintance. The girl, who still remains at large, turned, raised her hand approximately two feet above her head and proceeded to give a friendly gesture in the general direction of the group of Mines students.

By 6:31, the unnamed student raised his hand three feet above his head and waived vigorously back. Instantly, the girl and her group of friends turned to each other and giggled incessantly.

By the time the free pancakes arrived at the table, the anonymous male student, with a social security number of 123-44-5678, had blushed, laughed and been slightly ridiculed by his classmates. He left a one dollar tip, stood up, walked outside, and finished his meal at the Taco Bell across the street.

Fool's Gold would like to remind all students to be responsible with friendly gestures, as a misuse of them may end in an awkward or even uncomfortable situation.

Tired of ink on your fingers?

Get your clicking finger ready and check out the NEW www.oredigger.net





CSM Students rally for affordable textbooks

Think you're paying too much for textbooks? Colorado lawmakers and students from across the state, including CSM, are hoping to ease the burden.

[Read Full Story - 0 Comments](#)

Not your everyday wristwatch: Physics colloquium discusses new technology

Clocks are getting smaller, and researchers at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) in Boulder are doing the shrinking.

[Read Full Story - 0 Comments](#)

Colorado Caucus: Republicans choose Romney

by William Everson

February 5th, also known as Super Tuesday, was marked by rounds of Democrat and Republican primaries and caucuses throughout the nation, the greatest number of primaries ever held on the same day.

Colorado was just one of the many states to participate in Super Tuesday, with Democrats and Republicans caucusing throughout each county.

The Republican caucus held at Columbine High School was just one of the many caucuses held in the state on Tuesday. As the evening began, bands of Republican caucus-goers filled into the empty school's cafeteria, glad to escape the chilled evening air. Here, methodical volunteers checked in the queue, directing them to their designated district's table while sharing hearty banter.

[Read Full Story - 0 Comments](#)

Easier to navigate! Easier to comment! Easier to submit!

Get to www.oredigger.net today!

Never judge a book by its cover.

Image isn't everything.

It's not about gender, race, or religion.

The ISSUES are what really matter.

Know where you stand and who will stand with you!

Make up your own mind @

vajoe.com -> candidate calculator

ontheissues.org & factcheck.org

Know who, know what, and know why!

Your vote = how!

Voter Registration for any state @ iwanttovote.com

♥: CSM Democrats

New Panda

Traditional Chinese, Grilled Vietnamese & Spicy Thai Cuisine

Dine-In, Carry-Out, Delivery, Party Trays & Party Catering

Check Out Our Great 2-year Anniversary Rewards for Mines Students and Alumni!

****Buy 1 Entrée, get a 2nd 50% off****

****Get 20% off any Single Entrée****

****PARTIES OF 3 OR MORE MAY COMBINE THESE SPECIALS****

(Dine-In and Carry-Out Only, Students must show Student ID)

How does this affect your price? For example:

Sesame Chicken (Lunch) is \$5.95 Menu, **\$4.76 with 20% OFF**

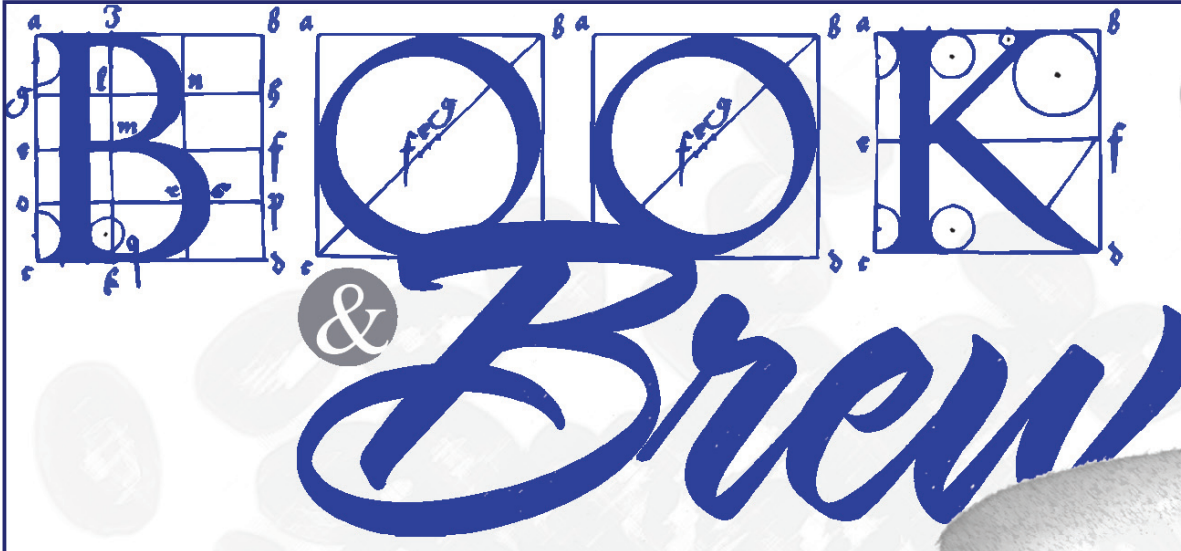
Sesame Chicken (Dinner) is \$8.55 Menu, **\$6.85 with 20% OFF**

An \$8.55 Entrée and a \$7.55 Entrée will cost \$16.10 Menu, **\$12.33 with Mines Discount**

****We gladly accept ALL Mines PURCHASE ORDERS and FIELD PURCHASE ORDERS****

17732 S. Golden Rd. (In Golden Village Shopping Center)

Phone: (303) 278-0060, (303) 278-0072



at Arthur Lakes Library

- Poudly Serving Allegro Coffee & Tea
- Organic Espresso Drinks
- Hormone-Free Milk
- Check Library Website for Current Hours



...Get Your Coffee On